

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. 4688

1. Name

Historic 1501-1527 North Durham Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 1501-1527 North Durham Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of fourteen two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built in 1891 by Isaac and Emanuel Ellinger, major real estate developers and builders of working class houses in East Baltimore. Although the cornices are old-fashioned by this date, the builders have given the houses more up-to-date Queen Anne-style decorative brick doorway hoods, showing the influence of a style that was regularly appearing in expensive Baltimore rowhousing by 1880. Seven of the houses retain their original brick facades, which have been painted, and evidence remains that their basements were originally painted white, to imitate the marble used in more expensive houses. One has been covered with formstone, and the rest of the row with a scored, stucco-like material, possibly a precursor to formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, 11'4" wide (12 for the two end houses), and occupy lots 61' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. The basement area was painted white, to imitate marble, as was common in houses of this type. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding, decorated with a cut-work band, supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves, connected by a lower molding strip decorated by a row of quarter-rounds, and ending with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a row of arched shapes suggestive of naturalistic forms (perhaps scallops), created with a jig saw.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels created by a double row of header bricks and plain tympanums. Several of the original 2/2 sash survive. The sills are wood. The elaborate Queen Anne-style decorative brick doorway hood shows the progressively recessed and "notched" brick patterns so popular in stepped brick cornices at this time. Each doorway originally had a double-light doorway transom but no original doors remain. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a double-light sash. Each doorway is reached by three concrete steps.

8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates 1891

Builder/Architect Isaac and Emanuel Ellinger

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built by Isaac and Emanuel Ellinger, major East Baltimore real estate developers and builders, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$500 to \$600.

The Ellingers purchased the two blocks bounded by Oliver and Lanvale Streets, Ann and Wolfe Streets in 1889, immediately sold the Wolfe St. frontage to builder Daniel Donnelly and then leased out the main street lots to three different local builders. Samuel B. Derr built twelve two-story, 13'3"-wide houses on the east side of Ann St.; Henry Brack put up ten two-story, 13'6"-wide houses on the north side of Oliver St.; and Walter Sewell built fourteen two-story, 13'6"-wide houses on the south side of Federal St., all in 1890. Houses began to sell in 1891 to mainly German-American owner-occupants. The Ellingers then built the Durham St. houses in the fall of 1891, sold seven to Bohemian owner-occupants as well as investors, and then the remaining twenty-one to Henry Brack who sold the houses to a mix of other investors and more Bohemian owner-occupants. One of the buyers, Frank Vomastek, a tailor, received his mortgage from the Bohemian Permanent Building and Savings Society, "Slovanstro"; another, Matej Opalecky, also a tailor, was financed by the St. Wenceslaus Building Association #1.¹

¹ BCLR, JB 1366/220; JB 1368/168; JB 1398/390; JB 1425/137

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date June 2000

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

N. BROADWAY

E. LAFAYETTE

B-4688

1501-1527 N. Durham St

BALTO. AID

TOWNSEND PL

AV

ST.

1906 City Atlas

1458

95

BETHANY
M.P.H.

50

1459

ST.

1460

E. LANVALE

1466

LANING AVE

1467

1468

80

N. CASTLE

1469

1470

1471

E. FEDERAL

1477

CRYSTAL AVE

1478

1479

BELAIR AVE

1481

BRENNERY OF
G. Bauernschmidt Company

1482

E. OLIVER

1494

HOFFMAN PL.

1495

1496

1497

1498

KEYSER

1499

1500

1501

E. HOFFMAN

BALTIMORE CITY

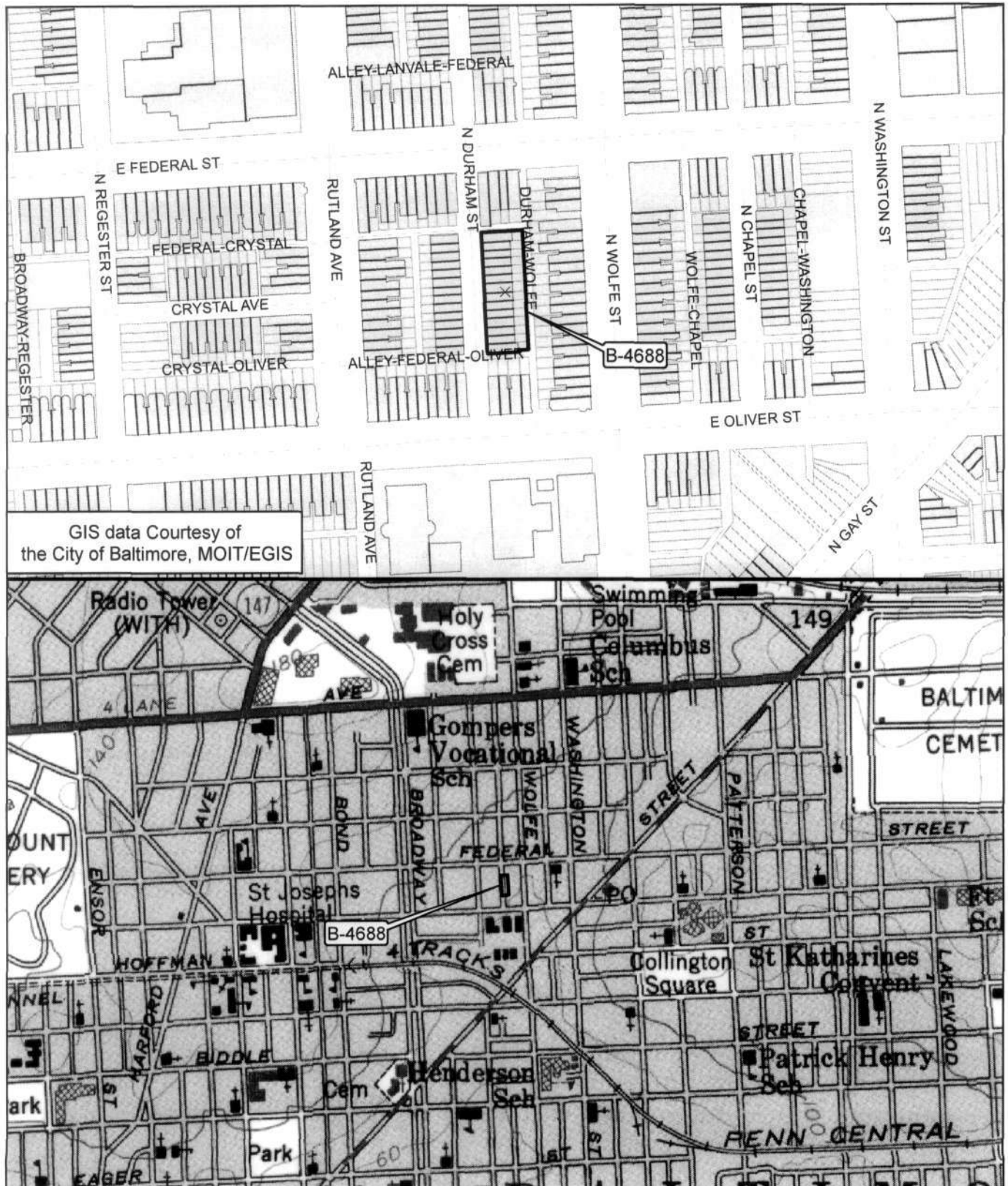
WATER DEPT.

SASH FACTORY

NAIL & RIVET
FACTORY

ST. MARYS
WEECHURCH

1501-1527 N. Durham Street
Block 1478, Lots 064-077
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





1501-1527 Durham Es

B-4688

1501-1527 N. Durham St.

BACTO. MD

W. Nield

10/96

MD S4PO

1/3

10D

[180116 0211 N H N 12



1500

1503

Durham

FES ?

93

B-4688

1513 N. Durham St.

BALTO MD

S. Allan

6/97

2/3

1191030 0211 JAN 1972



1501-1527 Durham

W-12

180

E21193 0211 W W 12 52

B-4688

1501-1527 N. Durham St.

BACTO. MD

W. NIEL

8/96

MD SH70

3/3